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Mystery of Malaysia flight continues

Missing jet last recorded hundreds of miles off-course **PAGE 9**

Herd are simply sizzlin'

Drouin pots OT winner as Mooseheads beat Islanders for 11th-straight win **PAGE 18**

MIREYA, SPANISH FOR 'MIRACLE'

BABY WHO SEEMINGLY SURVIVED DEATH A BIG HIT HERE AND BEYOND **PAGE 3**



JACK IN THE BOX

Jack the red kangaroo is taking up residence at the Museum of Natural History in Halifax during March Break and is drawing plenty of attention. Jack is part of a larger visiting exhibit from Little Ray's Reptile Zoo that will be at the museum until Sunday. Story, page 5. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Restaurant calls it a day

Brussels Restaurant and Brasserie. Owner says not enough people going downtown to eat

Another restaurant has closed its doors in downtown Halifax and the owner says it's because of inconsistent business from a weak customer base.

Brussels Restaurant and Brasserie was evicted from its location on Granville Street Tuesday after not paying rent in January and February.

Owner Boris Mirtchev said he made a difficult decision to "stop subsidizing" the restaurant after five years of losses.

"We'll get some spurts in business, we'll get some decent weekends ... overall, we just weren't making money," he said.

Mirtchev, who owns the Hamachi Group of restaurants, said he expects Brussels' seven full-time employees will be of-

fered positions with his other operations.

He said he opened Brussels as an homage to the cafes that adorn walking streets throughout Europe.

However, it suffered from a lack of residential density downtown and an inconspicuous location in Granville Square. "Unfortunately, Halifax didn't appreciate that part of town," he said. "I think there should be more office people going out, even if they take a brown bag lunch, just go and enjoy that nice public space."

The executive director of the Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia said downtown restaurants like Brussels and the Hart and Thistle — which closed last month — don't have a year-round residential customer base to cover the rising costs of power, water, taxes, rent and food.

"In the summer, you couldn't ask for a better location," he said. "But a full-time restaurant paying the kind of



Brussels Restaurant on Granville Street. JEFF HARPER/METRO

rent they are and taxes they are cannot afford to run a business on six months a year."

A spokesperson for Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, which owns the building, said the eviction was a difficult decision.

"Brussels is a wonderful tenant to have and a lot of people from here frequent the restaurant," said communications director Marilyn Smulders. "They've been good to work with and NSCAD's been supportive of them over the years, so it's unfortunate."

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

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Alleged abduction

Warrant goes nationwide in hunt for suspect

Police say a warrant for a man wanted in relation to a Halifax abduction case was extended to the entire country on Tuesday.

Police now believe Robert Roech Chan, 21, of Halifax, may have left Atlantic Canada. They consider Chan armed and dangerous and are warning members of the public not to approach him.

He is described as a black man, six-foot-one, weighing 170 pounds, with short black hair.

Chan is facing nine weapon-related charges in relation to the alleged abduction, as well as aggravated assault, assault with a weapon, kidnapping, unlawful confinement, uttering threats, extortion and robbery.

Two 16-year-old boys, a 16-year-old girl and 20-year-old Daniel Angus Ryan also face charges.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO



Robert Roech Chan CONTRIBUTED

Atlantic Superstore

Man charged in pair of TV heists

Police say a man accused of stealing flat-screen televisions from a Halifax business in January has been arrested.

According to police, a man entered the Atlantic Superstore at 3601 Joseph Howe Dr. on Jan. 15 and took a 46-inch Sony Bravia without paying.

Two weeks later, the man entered the same store and allegedly took an RCA flat-screen.

The television was later recovered in the men's washroom of a nearby Bowlarama.

Early Tuesday, police said they arrested Brandon Kirk McLaughlin, 30. He is charged with three counts each of theft under \$5,000, possession of stolen property under \$5,000 and breach of court order. **METRO**



Flowers sit near the South Street residence where David Rose was found murdered on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Victim named in south-end killing

David William Rose. Local police continue to withhold cause of death



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Neighbours living in the area where a 65-year-old man was found dead on Sunday said the incident is concerning, but Halifax police still aren't releasing details of how he died.

The body of David William Rose was found inside a

South Street building by another resident shortly before 11 p.m. Sunday, said police spokesman Const. Pierre Bourdages.

Police aren't releasing the cause of death since the investigation is "still in the early stages," Bourdages said Tuesday.

Rose's death was originally reported as suspicious, but an autopsy was conducted Monday, and at 5:30 p.m. police announced the case a homicide.

He was living in the rooming house at 5278 South St. and was known at a couple of

soup kitchens in Halifax.

A woman who runs the St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica drop-in said she knew Rose, but declined to comment.

Mick Levin also lives on South Street and said having a homicide a few doors away from his building is "pretty disturbing" but always considered the neighbourhood a safe part of town.

Angela MacKay just moved to the street with her family a couple months ago and said on Tuesday that the homicide is "concerning, obviously."

"But we don't know the de-

tails, and other than locking our doors and protecting our home — that's all we can do," she said.

Bourdages said police are looking for any information about where Rose might have been on Sunday or who might be responsible for his death.

Police "just don't know" the motive behind Rose's murder, Bourdages said, so they can't say whether this was a random incident or if he was targeted.

No arrests have been made, and Bourdages said police have no suspects in mind.



A two-car collision on Barrington Street on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Minor injuries. Slippery roads see rash of crashes

Halifax police say slippery road conditions on Tuesday likely contributed to more than a dozen minor accidents around the city.

Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Pierre Bourdages said there were 21 accidents between 8:20 a.m. and noon alone, including ones on Tower Road and a two-car collision on Barrington Street.

"There is a handful of them going on in the city," Bourdages said over the lunch hour. "The roads are slick, and it's snowing."

A vehicle also ended up on the sidewalk, wrapped around a pole on the Bedford Highway near Sherbrooke Drive.

Bourdages said only minor injuries were reported.

HALEY RYAN/METRO

Miracle baby's story of survival goes global

The mini celeb has been named ... Mireya, in honour of her auspicious entrance into the world



RUTH DAVENPORT
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The mother of the "miracle baby" born at the IWK Health Centre this week says she appears to be making a steady recovery — and yes, she has a name.

Robin Cyr's child wasn't breathing when she was delivered around 3 a.m. March 8 after a difficult and complicated birth.

The baby was declared dead after about 25 minutes, Cyr said — but suddenly started breathing on her own shortly after medical staff had stopped trying to revive her.

On Tuesday, an exhausted-sounding Cyr said she had settled on a name for the big newborn, who weighed in at more than nine pounds: Mireya, a Spanish name that means "miracle."

"I've seen her open her

eyes for the first time," said Cyr, 34, during a brief phone conversation Tuesday afternoon, adding that doctors were pleased with the baby's progress. "In maybe another four or five hours, I'll get to hold her for the first time."

Since Metro News published Cyr's story Monday, it has been picked up by international media including the British publication the Daily Mail and the New York Daily News.

But Cyr said she still hasn't processed the reality of almost having lost her fourth child.

"It didn't hit me yet," she said, adding she's been "very busy" with visits from friends and concerned relatives — all of which she's trying to juggle around caring for her newborn.

Mireya's aunt said the emotional roller-coaster that started with the little girl's highly eventful arrival in the world hasn't subsided for anyone.

With the baby still in the neo-natal intensive care unit, Anita Richards said she's trying to carry some of the burden for the overwhelmed new mother



A celebrity? Who me? Mireya on Sunday in the neonatal intensive care unit at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax. Inset: Robin Cyr visits with her newborn baby girl. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Feeling overwhelmed

"It's just kind of emotional ... Just because of everything (Cyr's) been going through. It's just a hard thing to grasp."

Anita Richards, aunt of 'miracle baby'

by dealing with some of the medical realities.

"Every time I'm here, I'm making sure I'm on

top of the questions like, 'How's her progress today?'

When are the wires going to come off? When does

she switch to the heating bed?" said Richards, adding that the baby's oxygen tubes have been removed

and she's been moved to a heating bed.

The IWK is conducting a review of the case.



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RCMP watchdog. No charges in death of man while in police custody

There are no grounds to lay criminal charges in the death of a man who stopped breathing while in RCMP custody last year in Nova Scotia, the province's police watchdog said Tuesday.

However, the Serious Incident Response Team said in a statement the two Mounties who placed the unconscious man in the cell may not have followed RCMP policy.

"While the actions of the jail guard were reasonable, by placing the man in the cell while unconscious the two RCMP officers may have breached RCMP policy by not seeking further medical attention," it said.

The team says the 40-year-old man was arrested for public intoxication and placed in a cell at the Liverpool detachment just before 1 a.m. on July 9 after

No comment

An RCMP spokesman said he could not immediately comment on the team's findings.

being found lying in a road.

About 30 minutes later, the team said the civilian jail guard became concerned about the man's health and called for help from the two Mounties, who were out on a call.

The team said the man had stopped breathing and CPR was performed when the Mounties returned around 2 a.m. The man was taken to hospital by paramedics where he was pronounced dead about 40 minutes later. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Court. Drunk driver pleads guilty in death of Halifax artist

An impaired driver has pleaded guilty to charges stemming from an incident which resulted in the death of a 33-year-old Halifax woman.

The woman was well-known artist Zoë Nudell. According to media reports, Nudell was jogging on Charlton Avenue in Hamilton, Ont., on Oct. 31, when she was struck by the impaired driver.

She died from her injuries a day later.

Nudell had only begun living in Hamilton two weeks prior to her death.

According to media reports citing Hamilton police, Joseph Warren, 42, pleaded guilty to charges of impaired driving causing death, driving without



Zoë Nudell HANDOUT

an interlock device, driving without insurance and possession of marijuana.

Warren will be sentenced at a later date, police said.

METRO

Announcement

Carter lands CEO gig with airport authority

Joyce Carter has been named the new president and Chief Executive Officer of the Halifax International Airport Authority. The announcement was made Tuesday by the HIAA. Carter is replacing previous CEO Tom Ruth, who left the position this past January. **METRO**

Earlier story

Correction

A story published in Metro Halifax on March 11 (Artillery Place proposal debated) incorrectly stated HRM Coun. Wayne Mason sits on the municipal Design Review Committee. The committee is in fact composed entirely of citizens, and Mason is not a member.

METRO



Demolition of Huskies Stadium continues

Workers continue demolition work at Huskies Stadium on Monday. The iconic stands and grassy hill, built in the 1960s, are being torn down and will be landscaped and sodded over. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

Old tires used to build roadway

Recycling. New Ragged Lake connector made with used tires



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HRM has put a new spin on their most recent road project.

Recycled tires were used to create 250 metres of roadway connecting Highway 103 to the new Ragged Lake transit station, said HRM's transportation planning manager David McCusker in an announcement on Tuesday.

"We gave it a try and it seemed to work well," McCusker said.

The connector project was finished last fall, and McCusker said it cost about \$1.4 million, which was comparable to the price of using regular gravel or other materials.

McCusker said Ragged Lake was a perfect place to try the tire derived aggregate (TDA) because it was close to the recycling plant where the tires were broken down so there was a low cost to haul the rubber.

Tires are inert and don't break down the way organics do so there's no danger that chemicals could eventually leak into the ground, McCusker

Quoted

"Time will tell regarding the durability, but it's nice to have given it a try."

HRM's transportation planning manager David McCusker

said.

The pieces used in the project were a foot or so long and easy to use during wet weather because they don't become saturated like gravel or soil, McCusker said.

Gravel was placed around the tires to weigh it down before the paving began, McCusker said.

"They're nicely sealed in place and nobody sees them,

and they're still doing a useful job."

HRM said 8,000 cubic metres of TDA was used, which is about three quarters of Nova Scotia's average tire production per year or 800,000 tires.

McCusker said this is also the first local road built for transit buses only, which should save the buses some time and add up to \$100,000 a year in savings.

Rainfall warning issued as storm nears

Better get your umbrella ready, not your shovel, for this storm.

Environment Canada has issued a rainfall warning for the Halifax area ahead of a storm to hit the region on Wednesday night and into

Thursday

Wednesday will see a mix of sun and cloud with increase cloudiness in the afternoon for the Halifax area. Rain, at times heavy, is forecast to begin on Wednesday evening and could

hit up to 40 millimetres by Thursday morning.

Temperatures will be around 1 C during overnight Wednesday and rise to 10 C on Thursday, with the wet weather to diminish during the day. **METRO**

Elsewhere

Northern Nova Scotia is expected to get snow and blowing snow, Environment Canada says

Jack the kangaroo keeps museum hopping during March Break

On display. Both adults and children are out in droves to see the big star of an Australian exhibit

MELISSA
HEALD

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Jack is one low-maintenance kangaroo.

According to his handler Dawson Watson, all he needs is water, food, and enough room to move and lay down.

He also likes to spend time boxing and eating sweet potatoes.

So who is Jack and where do you find him?

Jack is a red kangaroo and the star attraction of an Australian exhibit presented by Little Ray's Rep-



Jack the kangaroo checks out some of his visitors at the Museum of Natural History on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

tile Zoo at the Museum of Natural History as part of their March Break activ-

ities.

Thanks to Jack, the museum has been full of

people of all ages.

"Jack has added a lot," said Jeff Gray, curator of

See him while you can

Jack and the rest of the Australian exhibit will be on display at the Museum of Natural History through Sunday.

marketing and communications for the Halifax museum. "It's been wonderful to see this many people."

Monday is often the quietest day of the week but because of Jack, the museum enjoyed its busiest start to March Break since 2011. That year a T. Rex skeleton was on display.

Even on Tuesday at lunch, the museum was

busy with families looking for Jack.

When they find him, children gaze at him through the windows in his pen, almost star-struck.

Olivia MacNeil, a Grade 7 student from Lower Sackville, thought Jack was "very cute."

"It's pretty cool. I've seen one in pictures but never in real live," she said. "So that's cool."

And it doesn't matter what Jack does. Everything seems to impress.

"If he just standing there, people think it's great. If he's hopping around, people think that's fantastic. They love him even if he's napping," said Gray.

Quoted

"He's definitely the star of the show."

Dawson Watson, Jack's handler

If You Build It...

The volunteers at Shine Academics seem to have found the magic formula for helping kids with math.

Shine's program, held at the North End Memorial Library, and run by university students, Loran Morrison, Chloe Zinck and Jackie Nguyen, started last January. Then, it was just 13 teenagers trying to improve their math grades and meet academic requirements.

But something about the one-on-one tutoring, healthy snacks, and supplies like calculators and special software, produced remarkable results for the students. Now, with 23 participants, Shine has added another time slot and recruited 18 new volunteers to keep up.

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BACK ROW: Katherine, Loran, Treno, Christian, Alexis, Trenae, Tyanah, Kyturera, Kaitlin, Alysha, Emily; FRONT ROW: Ryan, Adam, Savannah, Xavier, Sebastian, Azisa, Lynnea, Matthew, Ismael, Victoria.

Radical approach provides liquor to chronic, homeless alcoholics

'Managed alcohol.'

Proponents say such programs can reduce ER visits and provide those struggling with alcoholism some stability in their lives

Valerie was living on the streets of Vancouver, sleeping in the park with a plastic bag for a blanket.

She was a chronic, homeless alcoholic caught in the soul-crushing cycle of addiction on the city's notorious Downtown Eastside.

"I was living on the streets and I was drinking Listerine and rubbing alcohol," Valerie said in a video shot by staff at the Portland Hotel Society, one of five groups across Canada that has decided to extend to chronic alcohol addiction the controversial harm-reduction approach better known for treating heroin addicts.

Valerie now lives at Station



Rachel Eck, left, Daikole Frazier, Kevin Slezak and brewmaster Tyler Big Child toast cups of beer they made at the Portland Hotel Society alcohol-brewing co-op program in Vancouver on Tuesday, part of a harm-reduction program aimed at alcoholics who might otherwise be drinking mouthwash or hand sanitizer. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Street, an 80-unit supportive housing complex in Vancouver opened by the society two years ago, where a nurse or staff member provides her with alcohol throughout the day.

She can't be intoxicated when her dose is due, and

the drink isn't enough for her to get drunk. It is enough to stave off withdrawal and, say proponents, allows Valerie some stability in her life.

A new study by the Centre for Addictions Research of B.C. at the University of Victoria has found that the

"managed alcohol program" approach reduced emergency hospital visits and arrests among participants at Shelter House, in Thunder Bay, Ont.

A larger study is pending on managed alcohol programs now in place in Thunder Bay, Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa

Quoted

"This is an extreme thing. If someone's drinking aftershave, it's pretty serious and they've done it for a very long time."

Mark Townsend, executive director of the Portland Hotel Society

and Hamilton, Ont. The study said there are also at least two informal programs in towns in the B.C. Interior.

In Vancouver, where the city, health officials and the province are at odds with the federal government over safe injection sites for heroin, the non-profit Portland Hotel Society has forged ahead with harm reduction for the smaller but equally troubled population of severe alcoholics on the streets of the Downtown Eastside.

"For us it's kind of a pragmatic approach to people we deal with every day," said Mark Townsend, executive director. "We'd rather they didn't do this, but they're doing it so we're trying to make it a little bit safer for them."

In addition to the man-

aged alcohol program, the society runs a "drinkers lounge" group for severe alcoholics that meets once a week. Among the programs offered to the group is a brew club, which allows them to join in brewing a batch of beer or wine for \$10 a batch.

Two litres of each is donated to an alcohol exchange, where members can swap toxic, non-beverage alcohol for beer or wine.

"This is an extreme thing. If someone's drinking aftershave, it's pretty serious and they've done it for a very long time," Townsend said.

"All we're really trying to do is improve their behaviour in the community and make it possible to house them. For us, it's succeeded."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

An independent Quebec would welcome rest of Canada: Marois

An independent Quebec would have no borders and would open its arms to tourists from Canada, Parti Québécois Leader Pauline Marois said Tuesday.

Marois was asked on the campaign trail whether an independent Quebec would be more attractive as a tourism destination.

"It won't change our landscapes, that's for sure," she said. "We'll still be able to go see the Rockies out west and go to Prince Edward Island and they'll be able to come here. There won't be any borders or tolls."

Marois then said an independent Quebec would have more latitude and freedom but she did not immediately elaborate on the border issue.

Later in the day, Marois sought to clarify the border comments when she agreed with a reporter's assertion that an independent Que-



Parti Québécois Leader Pauline Marois walks to her campaign bus Tuesday after a press conference in Bécancour, Que. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

bec would be like the European Union, where there is free movement of citizens.

"That's what it means,

but that's not to say there wouldn't be a (Quebec) citizenship and ... a passport," Marois said.

For his part, Liberal Leader Philippe Couillard said the PQ's constant musings on Quebec's future only serve to hurt the province.

"Every time they hint at a referendum, Quebec is weakened," he said at a campaign stop in Trois-Rivières.

Quebec independence would destroy the rest of Canada because the province is an "essential part" of the country and its "distinct character" is part of what makes Canada so interesting.

Couillard also harked back to the failed 1990 Meech Lake constitutional agreement, which would have recognized Quebec as a distinct society.

"Canada didn't refuse (to sign Meech)," he said. "Some provinces did not endorse Meech Lake but that doesn't mean Canada turned it down."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cyberbullying. Online harassment on the rise in universities, study shows

Cyberbullies have grown up.

Research out of Simon Fraser University suggests that the online abuse that has been so prevalent on the teenage battlefield is carrying through to the arena of adults at Canadian universities.

Papers to be presented at a symposium in Vancouver on Wednesday say that undergraduate students are harassing their peers on social media, instructors are on the receiving end of student-led online smear campaigns and faculty members are belittling their colleagues in emails.

"When you look at cyberbullying among younger kids, or kids in middle and high school, usually by age 15, it dies off," said education Prof. Wanda Cassidy, who worked on the study with two others.

"What was surprising was the fact that it is happening in universities to the extent that it is."

While many studies have been done on cyber-abuse involving adolescents, research

on the behaviour among adults is limited. Cassidy said she and her colleagues were curious to know whether teens who bully others online still do it after entering university.

The research team also wondered whether faculty staff are being targeted in cyberspace.

They surveyed over 2,000 people and interviewed 30 participants from four Canadian universities — two in British Columbia, one on the Prairies and one in Atlantic Canada.

Though some of the data from two universities are still trickling in, the available information so far indicates roughly one in five undergraduate students has been cyberbullied, mostly through Facebook, text messages and email, Cassidy said.

Cassidy said the emergence of cyberbullying in an older population comes with grownup consequences, such as ruined professional relationships or reputations, anxiety, sleep deprivation and thoughts of suicide. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cat rage. Police called in to free family trapped in a bedroom by their kitty

The Oregon owners of a 22-pound house cat that trapped them in their bedroom after attacking their baby say they're not giving up on their pet and are getting it medical attention and therapy.

Two days after police arrived to subdue the 4-year-old part-Himalayan cat, owner Lee Palmer of Portland said he's taking the feline to a veterinarian. A pet psychologist also is due at the house to see the cat, named Lux.

"We're not getting rid of him right now," Palmer said. "He's been part of our family for a long time."

Palmer says the animal attacked his 7-month-old child after the baby pulled its tail. The child suffered a few scratches on the forehead.

On the 911 call, Palmer tells the dispatcher he kicked the cat "in the rear" to protect his child. Palmer says the animal then "just went off over the edge," leading Palmer and his girlfriend to barricade them-

Not purring

"He's charging us. He's at our bedroom door."

Lee Palmer, talking to a 911 emergency dispatcher while huddled in a bedroom with his wife, his seven-month-old baby and the family's dog.

selves, their baby and the family dog in the bedroom for safety.

The cat can be heard screeching in the background of the call as Palmer says in a panicked voice: "He's charging us. He's at our bedroom door." Palmer also tells the dispatcher the cat has been violent in the past.

Officers used a dog snare to capture the animal, and placed it in a crate.

The cat attack story gained attention after police put out a news release about it Monday. Palmer says people reached out wanting to adopt Lux, but the family is not taking them up on it. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



I just want your extra time

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair gets a kiss from sled dog Bilbo at Muk Tuk Kennels in Takhini River, Yukon, Tuesday. Mulcair is in the Yukon until Thursday. **VINCE FEDEROFF/WHITEHORSE STAR/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Survey. UFO sightings down from 2012, still three a day in Canada

UFO sightings in 2013 may not have reached the hype they did in 2012, but there were still almost 1,200 sightings in Canada last year, according to a list compiled by the Winnipeg-based group Ufology Research.

In total, there were 1,180 UFO sightings in Canada, says the summary of results, the second-highest yearly number of UFO sightings in Canada in the last 25 years.

The highest was in 2012, with about 2,000 cases reported. "This was likely an anomaly due to many people who were excited about the so-called 'end of the world' in 2012 according to the Mayan Calendar, and reporting many lights and objects as UFOs," said the authors in a statement.

"Popular opinion to the contrary, there is no incontrovertible evidence that some UFO cases involve extraterrestrial contact," say authors of the survey.

"The continued reporting

Extraterrestrial?

The average UFO sighting in 2013 lasted about 13 minutes.

- Ontario had more than 40 per cent of all Canadian UFO reports.
- About 14 per cent of all UFO reports were classified as unexplained.

of UFOs by the public and the overall trend of increasing yearly numbers of UFO reports suggests a need for further examination of the phenomenon by social, medical and/or physical scientists."

The survey also found that more than half of all UFO sightings in Canada were just simple lights in the sky while others reported point sources of light, spheres and boomerangs. **METRO IN WINNIPEG**

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Pistorius trial. Court hears Olympian had fired guns twice in public

Oscar Pistorius' friend testified Tuesday the Olympian twice fired guns in public in the six months before he killed his girlfriend, once without warning through the sunroof of a moving car following an angry altercation with a policeman who had handled Pistorius' pistol.

Darren Fresco said he asked Pistorius immediately after the sunroof shooting if he was "mad" and the world-famous runner "just laughed" at him.

Fresco's testimony portrayed Pistorius as a reckless hothead who asked Fresco to take the blame for a gun being fired accidentally under a table in a Johannesburg restaurant.

Pistorius, 27, is on trial for murder for the shooting death of girlfriend Reeva



Oscar Pistorius
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steenkamp on Valentine's Day last year, but also faces two firearm charges for shooting in public and a third firearm charge for illegal possession of ammunition.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Biebs in court. Trial date set for May 5; no plea bargain offered

A May 5 trial date was set Tuesday for Justin Bieber in the Florida case charging him with driving under the influence, resisting arrest and possessing an invalid driver's license.

Prosecutor Daniel Diaz-Balart also said at a brief hearing that no plea offer has been made for the 20-year-old pop singer, who has pleaded not guilty. Bieber's attorney, Roy Black, also said there was no plea deal on the table and none had been rejected, even though first offenders in most similar cases are offered a plea to avoid potential jail time.

Bieber and R&B singer Khalil Amir Sharieff were ar-

Quoted

"We're going to prepare for a trial ... Mr. Bieber has pleaded not guilty."

Roy Black, Justin Bieber's lawyer, talking about his strategy for Bieber's upcoming trial in Florida.

rested Jan. 23 in Miami Beach after what police called an illegal drag race with high-end sports cars. Breath tests showed Bieber's blood-alcohol content was below the 0.02 limit for underage drivers. Other tests detected marijuana and Xanax.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Venezuela protests

Mediation a possibility for Biden: Source

U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden has been discussing the "difficult situation" in Venezuela with other Latin American leaders attending Chile's presidential inauguration on Tuesday, and mentioned the possibility of mediation by third parties, according to a senior U.S. administration official.

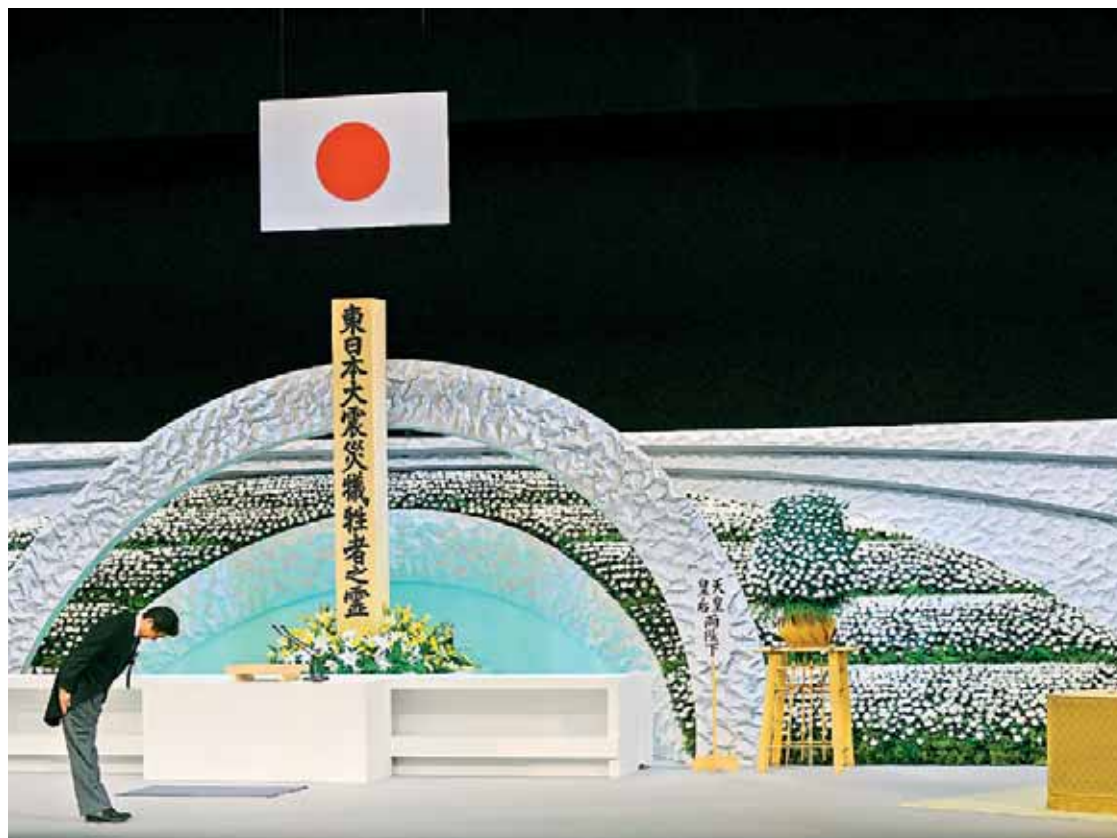
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In Brooklyn, N.Y.

Haitians sue UN over cholera outbreak

Nearly 1,500 Haitians filed a lawsuit Tuesday seeking compensation from the United Nations for victims of a cholera outbreak that health officials say has killed more than 8,000 people and sickened over 600,000 in the impoverished Caribbean nation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Japan pays its respects on tsunami's third anniversary

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, left, bows to Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko in front of the altar for the victims of the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami at the national memorial service in Tokyo, Japan, Tuesday. Japan marked the third anniversary of the devastating earthquake and tsunami which left nearly 19,000 people dead or missing, turned coastal communities into wasteland and triggered a nuclear crisis.

FRANCK ROBICHON/POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crown to appeal sex assault case on bias

Defence calls it 'a distraction'. Lead detective's statement recounts fishy after-trial talk with judge

An Ottawa lawyer says the Crown is "reopening a can of worms" by seeking to appeal a sexual assault case in which the judge discussed evidence he found on a dating website with a detective after delivering his verdict.

Céline Dostaler's client was acquitted on Dec. 18, 2013 after spending 14 months in custody facing charges of sexual assault and forcible confinement against his 43-year-old wife.

But in a January affidavit, Vikki Bair, Crown attorney for the City of Ottawa, said

she was "very concerned" by what lead detective Erin Lehman said Superior Court Justice Timothy D. Ray had told her.

On Monday, the appeal court granted the Crown an extension to appeal the acquittals on the grounds of "reasonable apprehension of bias."

But Dostaler told Metro Tuesday the decision is a "distraction from my client's innocence."

"He was acquitted on the merits of a sexual assault and forcible confinement and I think this is more of a side track issue and it doesn't change the fact that I think the Crown didn't have the strongest case," said Dostaler.

Dostaler said she has not seen the Match.com profile in question.

"I think the judge's decision was proper and we had already had enough information to discredit (the complainant) and she was discredited in court," she said.

"(My client) is absolutely upset because he feels this

is a distraction of his acquittal."

The accused was found guilty of assault and pleaded guilty to two breaches.

The matter returns to court March 19.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The conversation

According to Det. Lehman's statement, the judge had her come to his chambers after the trial and the following unfolded.

- He said he had created a fake profile on the dating website Match.com the night before the verdict.
- He said he found evidence on the site that would have been able to 'hang'

the victim with all the available information

- At the end of the conversation, Ray told Lehman she had been a "bright, happy face" in a sombre crowd.
- He also said they should have lunch or coffee some time.



These images released by Malaysian police during a news conference in Sepang, Malaysia, on Tuesday, show, at left, an Iranian identified by Malaysian police as Pouria Nour Mohammad Mehrdad, who Malaysian authorities say is 19, although Interpol's information indicated an age of 18, and 29-year-old Iranian Delavar Seyedmohammaderza. The men boarded the now missing Malaysia Airlines jet MH370 with stolen passports. MALAYSIAN POLICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Missing plane last spotted off course: Malaysian military

Flight MH370. Hijacking, sabotage and the pilots' psychological health are being considered

The missing Boeing 777 jetliner changed course over the sea, crossed Malaysia and reached the Strait of Malacca — hundreds of miles from its last position recorded by civilian authorities, Malaysian military officials said Tuesday, citing military radar data.

The development added confusion and mystery into what is emerging as one of most puzzling aviation incidents of recent time, and it has raised questions about why the Malaysia Airlines flight apparently was not transmitting

signals detectable by civilian radar or sending distress calls after it turned back.

Many experts have been working on the assumption there was a catastrophic event on the flight — such as an explosion, engine failure, terrorist attack, extreme turbulence, pilot error or even suicide. The director of the CIA said in Washington that he still would not rule out terrorism.

Flight MH370, carrying 239 people, took off from Kuala Lumpur at 12:41 a.m. Saturday, bound for Beijing. Authorities initially said its last contact with ground controllers was less than an hour into the flight at a height of 35,000 feet, when the plane was somewhere between the east coast of Malaysia and Vietnam. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Proficiency exams

A new kind of surrogate

Police in London, Ont., have charged three people who allegedly used fake passports to write English proficiency exams for foreign students who paid them \$7,000 for the service. The exams are among the qualifications required for acceptance into colleges and universities in Canada. Police say some foreign students unable to pass the exam hired a surrogate to write the test on their behalf. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

In broad daylight. Swedish journalist murdered in Kabul by unknown gunman

A journalist for Swedish radio was shot and killed by an unidentified gunman on Tuesday as he stood by a busy road in Kabul.

A spokesman for Kabul's criminal investigation section told The Canadian Press that Nils Horner, 51, was shot in the back of the head while talking to a translator on a street that runs along the Afghan capital's embassy district. The scene lies just up the way from the site of a deadly restaurant attack in January.

Horner, who was also a British citizen, was rushed from the scene, but succumbed before reaching the hospital, said Sayed Gul Agha Hashimi.

The journalist's driver and translator are being questioned as part of the investigation.

A witness, who didn't want to give his name, said two young men approached Horner just after he'd gotten out of a car and while he was in conversation with the translator.

He said the men's appear-

ance didn't raise any alarm and it seemed they all knew each other. Then one of the men pulled out a gun with a silencer and shot Horner.

British news media reports say Horner had been on his way to meet a survivor of the January restaurant attack, in which Taliban militants killed 13 foreigners and eight Afghans. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

The murder

The area where Horner was killed teems with private security and Afghan police. There are multiple road barriers, blast walls and sand-bagged machine gun posts.

- Late Tuesday, an official with the Swedish embassy was at the guest house where Horner lived and where his room has been sealed off.

- Police are expected to search it on Wednesday.

16 МАРТА МЫ ВЫБ



Ominous signs of the vote to come in Crimea

A man walks past a poster in Sevastopol, Crimea, Ukraine, reading "On March 16 We Vote," suggesting that a Nazi-style regime is the alternative to becoming part of Russia. Crimea's Parliament said Tuesday that if the public votes to join Russia, the peninsula will first declare itself independent before proposing to become a Russian state. That could offer a way of de-escalating the standoff between Russia and the West.

ANDREW LUBIMOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Site of drone crash

Three people killed in Israeli airstrike in Gaza

An Israeli airstrike killed three Gaza militants on Tuesday near an area where an unmanned Israeli surveillance aircraft crashed earlier in the day, an official in the Palestinian territory said. The Israeli military said it was responding to mortar fire.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

White House website

Man pleads guilty in Obama threat posting

A U.S. man has pleaded guilty to posting a threat to kill President Barack Obama on the White House website. Nicholas Savino pleaded guilty Monday to posting the threat last August that said, "President Obama the Anti-Christ. As a result of breaking the constitution you will stand down or be shot dead." The 42-year-old will be sentenced June 11. He faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jetson had a flying car, Brin has a driverless car

In the future you'll have one, too. With self-driving cars already being tested, officials are busy deciding on the new rules of the road

Sooner or later, consumers will be able to buy cars that rely on

computers — not the owner — to do the driving.

With that in mind, the California Department of Motor Vehicles held an initial public hearing Tuesday as it puzzles through how to regulate the public's use of the technology that is still being tested.

Among the questions officials wanted to unravel:

How will the state know the cars are safe?

Does a driver even need to be behind the wheel?

Can manufacturers mine data from on board computers to make product pitches based on where the car goes or set insurance rates on how it is driven?

Once the stuff of science fiction, driverless cars could be commercially available by decade's end. Before then, the DMV wants to decide how to

integrate the cars onto public roads.

Three other states have passed driverless car laws, mostly focusing on testing. California's legislature passed a law in 2012 that mandated rules on testing and public operation, and the DMV expects within weeks to finalize regulations dictating what companies must do to test the technology on public roads. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



While he's no George Jetson, Google co-founder Sergey Brin looks pleased after riding in a driverless car at Google headquarters in 2012. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE**

Take that, polar vortex. Top U.S. airlines flying high despite rough winter

U.S. airlines are still tallying up the damage from this winter's storms, but solid demand for travel means they are likely to weather the rocky start to 2014 in good shape.

Reports from some of the airlines point to higher average prices, and executives say spring bookings look strong.

This has been the worst winter for flight cancellations since the government started keeping track more than 25 years ago. The top four airline companies by miles flown — American, which includes US Airways; United; Delta; and Southwest — have cancelled

nearly 75,000 flights this year. Snow and ice storms have fouled schedules at big airports in Chicago, Atlanta, the New York City area and elsewhere.

Since Jan. 1, Delta Air Lines Inc. has cancelled 17,000 flights. In weaker times for the industry, that might have been devastating, said Ed Bastian, the airline's president. Those cancellations will cut revenue by \$90 million US and pretax earnings by \$55 million, but Delta still expects to post a record profit for the first quarter, usually the weakest season for airlines, he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



While airlines raked in the profits, many travellers were stuck waiting after flights were cancelled due to the weather this winter. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE**

20-year fight

Raw-milk activist plows ahead after court loss

A farmer who has spent two decades fighting for the right to sell unpasteurized milk to willing buyers pledged to take his case to the country's highest court Tuesday after losing an appeal against his conviction for breaking public-health laws. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Market Minute

DOLLAR
90.07¢ (-0.01¢)

TSX
14,267.23 (-34.83)

OIL
\$100.03 US (-\$1.09)

GOLD
\$1,346.70 US (+\$5.20)

Natural gas: \$4.59 US (-\$0.07)
Dow Jones: 16,351.25 (-67.43)

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MUSTN'T FORGET THAT UFO INVASION

With all the talk about the zombie apocalypse these days, you don't hear much about UFOs. It's as if they've just vanished from the sky.

Well, you'll be pleased to hear that's not the case.

In fact, here in Canada, the number of UFO sightings has never been higher. They haven't gone away. It's just that nobody cares anymore. We have zombies — and a few leftover sparkling vampires — to worry about.

Despite the shift in phantom phasion, Chris Rutkowski, chief researcher at Ufology Research (formerly Ufology Research of Manitoba, in case you were wondering) keeps grinding out the annual UFO survey.

As you might expect, 2012, the year of the Mayan apocalypse that didn't happen (it's hard keeping all these apocalypses straight), was a record year for UFO sightings. For some reason the Maya, who are Mesoamerican indigenous per-



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

sons, and UFOs, piloted by Romulan indigenous persons, are often linked.

Anyway, there were 1,981 sightings in 2012, but 2013 was no slouch for sightings either, according to the latest report, fresh from the twilight zone. There were 1,180 UFO sightings reported in Canada in 2013, about three a day.

A triumphant note has a tendency to creep into Rutkowski's otherwise commendable attempt to stay on an even keel. "UFOs have not gone away. This data clearly contradicts comments by those who would assert that UFOs are a 'passing fad' or that UFO sightings are decreasing."

That "passing fad" guy? That would be me.

To his credit, Rutkowski keeps an open mind about what people are seeing. Most cases are, um, nocturnal lights (631). But daylight discs are creeping up (145). You'll also be pleased to know that there are still a few good-old-fash-

ioned close encounters of a third kind, in which actual Romulans are encountered (the more scientifically rigorous Rutkowski calls them "entities"). There are even three close encounters of a *fourth* kind, "an alleged 'abduction' or 'contact' experience." I'll bet.

Most intriguing, a full 14 per cent of all 2013 UFO reports are classified as unexplained. The truth may or may not be out there.

Rutkowski is ready to concede that a failure to recognize conventional or natural objects may be the underlying reason for some of these sightings, but he doesn't rule out the possibility that more secret or classified military exercises are underway — or maybe there's just an increase in Amazon drone test flights.

On the other hand, maybe more nutbars (my word) with an inclination to share have access to the Internet. My favourite possible reason: The downturn in the economy is "leading to an increased desire by some people to look skyward for assistance."

Cosmic panhandling. It's a growing problem.

ZOOM

Left to nature, in plane view



ALEX MACLEAN/BEETLES + HUXLEY

Humanity's mark seen from the air

A "bone yard" of B-52 bombers in Tucson, Ariz. Man's impact on the natural world is revealed in a new exhibit by photographer Alex MacLean. Taken above the earth from a plane, the pictures offer a thought-provoking perspective on human intervention. MacLean's work is being shown at the U.K.'s Beetles + Huxley gallery until March 29.

MWN

Photog's viewpoint



"I try to make my pictures beautiful, but also to get the audience to appreciate the underlying substance of my projects such as globalization and climate change."

Alex MacLean, 67

Patterns sketch out culture and people

An architect by training, MacLean sees orderly yet artistic patterns created by humans from his almost godlike perspective: "The arrangement of man-made objects and markings tell so much about culture and people living on the land. With the distance of the aerial perspective, it's as if you are looking at a perfect model of basic organizational principles." MWN



This colourful image of shipping containers in Portsmouth, Va., is sombre in tone: "It's a perfect metaphor for my concerns about globalization," says MacLean.

ALEX MACLEAN/BEETLES + HUXLEY

Clickbait



LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

On March 12, 1989, Tim Berners-Lee presented a paper at the CERN lab in Switzerland, outlining his vision for sharing files between computers. Twenty-five years later, that vision is now woven into our everyday lives in the form of the World Wide Web. So, on the occasion of the web's 25th birthday, here are a few ways to celebrate:

The Internet Archive (archive.org/web):

Known as the WayBack Machine, this archive of more than 398 billion web pages offers you a sizable glimpse into the web's past. It's kind of like looking at the web's baby photos.



GETTY IMAGES

The first website:

Although Berners-Lee had conceived of the web back in 1989, it took him until 1993 to launch the first website. It's still online, and available at info.cern.ch.

The gift of cash:

Berners-Lee could have gotten rich by patenting the technology behind the web, but instead chose to give it to the world as a free resource. So today, why not donate to some of the organizations fighting to keep the web free and open, like OpenMedia.ca or the Electronic Frontier Foundation (eff.org).

Twitter



@metropicks asked: Snowden says NSA is "setting fire to the future of the Internet." Have his leaks affected your web use?

@Zaedum: knowing that countries are using my information without my permission has made me more wary to what I do and which apps I use.

@speirs: Snowden's leaks have verified what I have suspected about myself. My metadata profile: Subject has no life.

Comments

RE: Surly Pet Cat Traps U.S. Couple, Who Call 911, published March 11

So the cat has a history of violence and they are keeping it despite it scratching a 7 month old baby's face. Just another example of idiots choosing animals over people. **freebird posted to metronews.ca**

They didn't have a guilt to throw on it? **Maple Syrup posted to metronews.ca**

Pissed off cat, I can believe. Gunless Americans???? That's a tough one to swallow. **MP posted to metronews.ca**

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Send us your comments: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Another case of hotel as grand old backdrop of frolic and folly

Lobby for fun. Wes Anderson latest director to resort to hotel as centre of action



IN
FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

"Grand Hotel... always the same. People come, people go. Nothing ever happens."

That famous line from the Greta Garbo film *Grand Hotel* is only half right. Hundreds of movies have used hotels as a backdrop for the action because people come, people go, but despite the quote's assertion, there's always something happening.

This weekend's *The Grand Budapest Hotel* is a case in point. Starring Ralph Fiennes as a concierge at a European hotel between the world wars, it features an all-star cast, including Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, Harvey Keitel and Edward Norton. They are all part of the fabric of the hotel's history, which includes assassins, murder, riches and a mysterious painting.

Hollywood has always recognized that the transient nature of hotels makes for great drama.

New York City's Plaza Hotel has played host to many famous movie scenes. Everything from *Barefoot in the Park* to *Funny Girl* to *The Great Gatsby* has used the iconic hotel as a backdrop, but it is probably best known as a location for North by



Ralph Fiennes stars as a concierge in Wes Anderson's *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. CONTRIBUTED

Northwest. In the Alfred Hitchcock film, Roger O. Thornhill (Cary Grant) is mistaken for a government agent and kidnapped from the ornate lobby.

The opening shot of *Goldfinger* features a stunning aerial view of Miami's Fontainebleau Hotel, which at the time was the most luxurious guesthouse on Miami Beach. Later in the film, Bond girl Jill Masterson (Shirley Eaton) dies of skin asphyxia-

tion inside the hotel after henchman Oddjob (Harold Sakata) coats her whole body in gold paint.

In the 1920s the Hotel del Coronado was a famous weekend getaway for Hollywood stars like Mae West, Charlie Chaplin, Clark Gable and Errol Flynn, but the Victorian wooden beach resort found fame as the setting for several scenes in *Some Like It Hot*. Located on San Diego Bay across from San Diego,

the beachfront location was the scene of one of the film's most famous lines. When Jerry (Jack Lemmon) first spies Sugar Kane (Marilyn Monroe) sashaying through the sand, he says, "Look how she moves! It's like Jell-O on springs."

Stephen King was inspired to write *The Shining* after staying at the 140-room Stanley Hotel in Colorado. "I think a lot of things happened right here in this particular hotel

over the years," says Dick Hal-lorann (Scatman Crothers) in the film version. "And not all of 'em was good."

The Stanley has been used as a location for *Dumb and Dumber* and other films, but Stanley Kubrick chose not to showcase the place in his 1980 adaptation of the novel. Instead, much to King's disappointment, he used Oregon's Timberline Lodge as a stand-in for the film's fictional Overlook Hotel.

True Detective demand crashes HBO Go



Woody Harrelson, left, and Matthew McConaughey in HBO's *True Detective*. JIM BRIDGES/HBO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you're one of those who have no idea how *True Detective* ended Sunday night — whether or not Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson located the Yellow King — you're not alone. Last night so many people were trying to log onto the on-demand service HBO Go that the site crashed. Left with nothing to fill their life with, they were forced to mobilize the old fashioned way: By complaining on Twitter and hoping some journo screen-grabs them.

Does this mean a seismic shift in HBO Go's rules? Currently they're shockingly lax, given that they're a major conglomerate who can do a show with a famous actor destined for his first Oscar. If you have an HBO Go subscription, you can share it with up to five others, and their usage will not interfere with your own. Predictably, many have done just that, and the no doubt many duplicate accounts no doubt led to a serious clog.

But don't freak and order your own pricy HBO subscrip-

tion. No less than HBO CEO Richard Plepler has said as recently as January that he's cool with the code sharing. "It's not that we aren't unmindful of it, but it has no real effect on our business," he crowed during a BuzzFeed event. He looks at it as marketing, allowing the content to spread more easily. After all, to get HBO Go you have to become an HBO subscriber. Of course, at this point, how many of you are still cable subscribers?

MATT PRIGGE/METRO WORLD NEWS



Keith Richards

Sex, drugs and children's literature

Keith Richards is writing a children's book. He really is.

The Rolling Stone who came to define the adults-only lifestyle of rock has a deal with Little, Brown Books for Young Readers for a picture story called *Gus & Me: The Story of My Granddad and My First Guitar*.

The publisher announced Tuesday that the book will come out this fall and will include illustrations by Richards' daughter, Theodora

Richards. Barnaby Harris and Bill Shapiro are assisting with the writing.

Gus is Gus Dupree, Keith Richards' beloved musician-grandfather. In a statement issued by the publisher, Richards said the book was based on "one of those magical moments" he had with Dupree. Richards, 70, has five grandchildren of his own. His memoir *Life* was published in 2010.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Amanda Bynes denies secret Twitter account

Amanda Bynes has been behaving herself since returning to Twitter earlier this month — officially, at least.

According to *In Touch*, the troubled former child star has been using a secret second Twitter account to be her old self again, mocking familiar targets like Rihanna and Courtney Love and obsessing over her dog and going to the gym under the

pseudonym Ashley Barks. "If this isn't Amanda Bynes' private Twitter account, then someone is doing a very good job of impersonating her," a social media expert tells the magazine.

But Bynes herself says the story is bogus, taking to her official Twitter account to write, "FYI This is my only twitter account, I have no secret twitter accounts."



Amanda Bynes ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Mamma Mia! Miley eyes getaway in Clooney's hood

George Clooney's hideaway in Lake Como, Italy, might not be such a peaceful retreat if Miley Cyrus goes through with her reported plan to purchase a home near the Monuments Men star.

"Miley is seriously talking about purchasing a home on Lake Como," a source tells Radar Online.

Apparently the search is part of her efforts to maintain the control over her fortune.



Miley Cyrus

"She's going to buy the biggest and most expensive houses she can in part to keep the money away from her parents," the source says.

Twitter



@justinbieber
studio. always working



@pattonoswalt
I mean, there's a goddamned JUMBO JET that's MISSING. I'm trying to be calm, but this is @StephenKing LANGOLIERS s---. Steve?



@prattprattpratt
There's nothing to fear but fear itself. Oh also bats.

The Word

Captain America sick of partying — except with his fellow superheroes

Captain America star Chris Evans is looking to settle down and put the partying to rest, according to *Glamour* U.K.

"In your 20s you think, 'How will I ever not like going out?' You have drinks, buddies, music — great," Evans tells the magazine. "But in the last two or three years, I go to a club and I kind of wish I was home. My idea of a good time has evolved a bit, so a night out with me might not be as exciting as it might have been a couple of years ago."

He does make an exception, though for his *Avengers* co-stars, including Robert Downey Jr., Mark Ruffalo, Scarlett Johansson and Chris Hemsworth.

"It's different with those guys," he says. "You're like, 'Come on, guys, this is great! This isn't going to last forever and this is a really fun group of people doing a really fun



thing. Let's go get drunk! I try to be the motivating force. Everyone's married and has

kids and s--- like that, so I'm still the one single guy going, 'Come on, shots!'"

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3
LIFE

Perfect pubs for Paddy's Day

Raise your pint glass.

It can be tough to find an authentic Irish watering hole on this side of the Atlantic; here are five suggestions

STEVE
GOW

life@metronews.ca

There's no shortage of bars across the country claiming to be Irish, but only a precious few can say their roots are tied to the Emerald Isle. If you're particular about celebrating St. Patrick's Day in true Irish tradition, here are five of Canada's most authentic pubs.

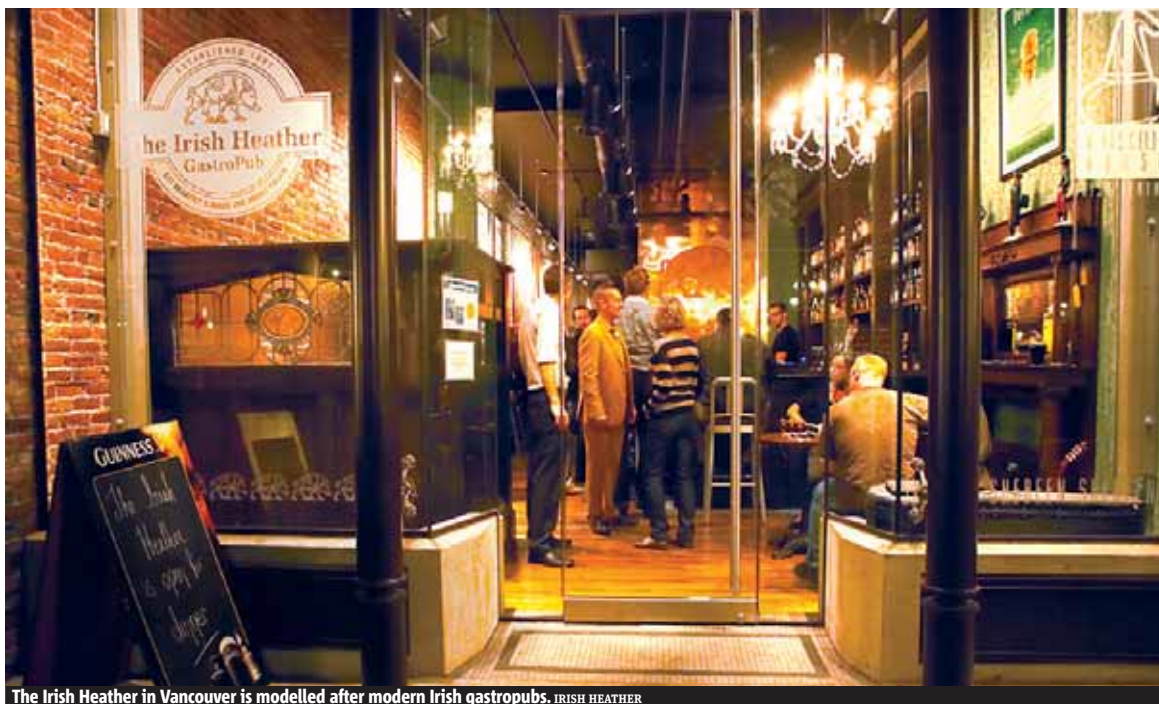
Durty Nelly's (Halifax)

Named after a famous Irish landmark, Durty Nelly's is credible enough to boast that its interior was actually designed and constructed in Dublin before crossing the Atlantic to be rebuilt in downtown Halifax. Toss in seafood chowder that has even been praised by the L.A. Times and this pub is certainly worth its Celtic salt.

Irish Specialties: Guinness Lamb Shank (\$19), Seafood Chowder (\$12.50)

P.J. O'Brien (Toronto)

Opened by well-known businesswoman Pat Quinn, P.J. O'Brien features a classic copper-topped bar, authentic Irish cuisine, white-jacketed bartenders and plenty of hospitality. Although the always-friendly proprietor passed away in 2009, his gregarious legacy lives on through his son.



The Irish Heather in Vancouver is modelled after modern Irish gastropubs. IRISH HEATHER

Don't be surprised if Pat Quinn Jr. even comes over and buys you a round.

Irish Specialties: Beef and Guinness Stew (\$15), Kilkeny Ale Fish & Chips (\$15)

O'Hanlon's (Regina)

Surprisingly, the reigning champ for selling the most Guinness pints in Canada is located in Regina. Run by Limerick native Niall O'Hanlon, the eponymous pub sold 61 kegs of the popular stout last St. Patrick's Day and aims to defend the title. O'Hanlon's is primarily an alehouse, but attracts a diverse clientele.

Irish Specialties: Corned Beef and Cabbage (\$15), Shepherd's Pie (\$14)

James Joyce (Calgary)

Located amongst Calgary's skyscraper-lined downtown, James Joyce was opened by Irish immigrants Anne and Gerard Curran to bring Gaelic ambience to the Stampede City. Highlighted by traditional Celtic music and decorated with scores of artifacts and heirlooms ranging from schoolbooks to a penny-farthing bicycle, this dark, inviting pub will make you feel like you've been transplanted to the middle of the Emerald Isle.

Irish Specialties: Irish Potato Boxty (\$13), Ballycastle Bacon Bites (\$11)

Irish Heather (Vancouver)

For a slightly bit more contemporary "craic" experi-



Durty Nelly's interior was constructed in Dublin. DURTY NELLY'S

ence, Irish Heather in Vancouver's historic Gastown district models itself on modern Irish gastropubs, but its still the perfect pub to soak up Celtic spirit with a Guinness in hand. In the popular backroom distillery, devotees can test out Vancouver's biggest selection of whiskeys.

Irish Specialties: Bangers & Mash (\$17), Lamb Shepherd's Pie (\$18)

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Looking for a lucky charm?

Sweet souvenirs. 'Tis the season for pots of gold and leprechauns, but try taking home some of these talismans from your travels



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Glass charms Greece and Turkey

The evil eye refers to bad energy transmitted by a person who has negative and covetous thoughts. Victims, from humans to horses, are said to suffer from headaches, nausea or impotence. While locals believe the blessings from church officials or remedies administered from a learned elder can cure them, interlopers may find the purchase of a preventative charm to

be their safest bet. Found almost everywhere around the Aegean Sea, eyes painted on blue glass reflect the power of the evil eye back on itself.

Dream catcher, Arizona

The legend of the dream catcher is woven into the oral histories and traditions of many native cultures in North America. Its principal purpose is to filter bad dreams, ensnaring the bad ones and directing the good ones to a person's subconscious. In addition to a getting a good night's sleep, owners are believed to be blessed with improved health.

Voodoo doll, New Orleans

In the mid 1700s, voodoo rapidly spread in New Orleans as the mystical religion overlaid its symbols and deities with those of Christianity. Drawing on their European masters' traditional use of effigies, slave practitioners created the voodoo doll. Whether the energy surrounding



Eyes painted on blue glass can ward off negative energy from the evil eye. These are found almost anywhere around the Aegean Sea. ISTOCK

them is good or bad depends on the intent of their creators and owners. Pick up a white voodoo doll, which is aimed at transferring positive energy and good luck from one person to another.

Corno, Italy

The phallic shape of a corno has been a symbol of fertility, fortune and power since Roman times. Like the point of a sword fending off

a foe in battle, its tip is said to protect owners against harm. To harness its protective power pick up a gold or coral charm, or perhaps a T-shirt with a corno emblazoned on it.

Lava rocks, Hawaii

Some mementoes are better left behind! According to legend, Hawaii's goddess of volcanoes doesn't take too kindly to those who cart pieces of lava rock, coral



Dream catchers are part of the traditions of many North American native cultures. Their main purpose is to filter bad dreams. ISTOCK

or even sand off the islands that she's believed to have created. The best way to avoid her curse? Stick to taking photographs of the landscape.

Bucket list



Cue the classics

Sundance, Cannes — who cares? It's not too late to sign up for the TCM Classic Film Festival April 10 to 13 — because you know you've always wanted to. This fifth annual event will see hosts Robert Osborne and Ben Mankiewicz (and you!) rubbing shoulders with legendary stars in and around the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, the site of the first Academy Awards ceremony. Film buffs from around the world will congregate to help TCM celebrate its 20th anniversary with red-carpet galas, special movie screenings, the Vanity Fair opening night party and more. The list of special guests includes Kim Novak, Mel Brooks (above), Shirley Jones and more. Passes start at \$250 US and run to \$1,600. Go to filmfestival.tcm.com. **DOUG WALLACE/METRO**

New



Route to Israel

Porter Airlines and EL AL Israel Airlines have joined forces, leveraging their links with Newark airport in New Jersey to make it a hub for people travelling between Tel Aviv and Toronto (to Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport). Porter, which flies to and from Newark up to 13 times a day, is teasing us with news of more such deals with other airlines in the future. Stay tuned at elal.co.il and flyporter.com. **DOUG WALLACE/METRO**

Deal



Soho Beach House

Miami's recently expanded Soho Beach House is having a bit of a sale. This exclusive, private club for the creative crowd has a 50-room hotel open to the public, offering rooms starting at \$250 when you book before March 31 a minimum five-night stay between May 1 and October 24. You save at least \$150 per night — and can enjoy similar privileges and facilities as the club members, including two pools, a garden, private beach, live music, guest speakers and more. Visit sohobeachhouse.com. **DOUG WALLACE/METRO**

How-to



Travel with the comforts of home

1. Pack a travel coffee maker (Aeropress.com) and a small bag of some nice Illy coffee. 2. Snack while you unpack, with things you bring from home: toasted almonds, a jar of artichokes, a wedge of cheese, your favourite crackers. 3. A tiny travel steamer will save you from cursing at the seen-better-days iron and unruly ironing board in the closet. 4. BYOP — bring your own pillowcase. It will smell just like home.

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Work without walls? It's a remote possibility

Out with the office.

If you're going to be on the go with your work flow, make sure the boss knows you're still on the ball

DAN
SCHAWBEL
Metro World News

If you aren't a remote worker right now, chances are you could be in the future. A new study by the work lifestyle company Flex+Strategy Group and Quest Diagnostics found that 31 per cent of full-time employees in the U.S. (about eight million people) do most of their work from a location other than their employer's site. Though many workers romanticize about working from home, it's much harder than it seems.

I spent four years working remotely and ended up renting office space because

Show that mug!

Face-time is still the best way to build relationships with the people you work with.

- "Make it a point to go into your employer's workplace regularly," says Yost. Nothing will replace in-person visits where people can get to know you on a personal level.

my situation was getting in the way of real human interaction. They don't teach you in college how to work remotely or manage remote workers, but it's an important skill in the 21st century. I spoke with Cali Williams Yost, founder of Flex+Strategy Group, to get her tips for remote workers.

Know your boundaries

When you aren't working in an office, it's hard to balance your work and life because you aren't clocked



With technologies like Skype, Basecamp and Google Apps, it no longer matters where and when you do work — only that you get results that benefit your company. ISTOCK

in. It's up to you to set time aside to do personal things that matter to you.

"Make it part of your routine to sit down for 20 minutes each week and review

what you need to get done and want to get done on the job, with your career and in

your personal life," Yost recommends.

Identify actions and priorities

As a remote worker, you need to take the initiative to manage yourself instead of relying on your boss to do it for you. "Identify the small, meaningful actions and priorities that will help you be your best, at work and in your personal life, for the next seven days, whether it's completing an important project, getting enough sleep or eating healthy meals," Yost suggests.

Give regular status updates

One of the biggest concerns managers have with remote workers is that they might be distracted. Your manager will trust you if you make sure he or she is aware that you are constantly doing work and exceeding expectations. "Every week send your manager a quick 'highlights' list of accomplishments," says Yost.

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An egg wrap for dinner? All the cool foodies are doing it!

Greek Style Couscous and Egg Wrap. Gone are the days when eggs were just a breakfast staple. Here, they star in a 15-minute dinner



DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

FLASH FOOD



From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

This is an easy light dinner or make ahead lunch for the family.

Using hard cooked eggs in sandwiches adds protein and a creamy texture to this

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup (125 ml) whole wheat couscous
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried thyme leaves or Italian herb seasoning
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) sodium reduced vegetable or chicken broth
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) each grated carrot and zucchini or diced bell pepper
- 3 hard cooked eggs, peeled
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) 0% fat plain Greek yogurt
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) quartered grape tomatoes or chopped tomatoes
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) crumbled light feta cheese
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) chopped fresh basil or parsley
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) fresh ground pepper
- 4 small whole wheat flour tortillas

filling. For a flavour twist, switch up your cheese and try goat cheese or ricotta instead of the feta.

1. Place couscous in a bowl with garlic and thyme. Bring broth to a boil and pour over couscous. Stir in carrot and zucchini; cover and let stand for 5 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, in another

bowl, mash eggs with a fork and stir in yogurt, tomatoes, feta, basil and pepper. Add couscous mixture and stir to combine.

3. Divide among the tortillas and roll up to enjoy.

FOR MORE OF EMILY RICHARDS' RECIPES THAT ARE PERFECT FOR DINNER AND MORE, BE SURE TO CHECK OUT HEALTHYCANADIANS.GC.CA

Cooking tips

- Make wraps the night before. Cover tightly with plastic wrap. Keep in the fridge and grab one as you head out the door.
- Turn this recipe into a salad by baking the tortilla on a turned over ovenproof bowl in a 400 F (200 C) oven for about 5 minutes or until golden. Let cool slightly then fill with couscous mixture.
- No-fail way to make hard cooked eggs: Place eggs in a single layer in saucepan and cover 2.5 cm (1 inch) above eggs with water. Cover and bring to a boil over high heat. Remove from heat and let stand 25 minutes. Drain water and run cold water over eggs to chill.
- Pack a protein punch with hard cooked eggs. They make a great snack so cook up extra to pack in everyone's lunches for snacks or a quick bite after school. Serve it up some carrot and celery sticks for crunch and you will have a that boost you need to get you through work or your next afternoon meeting.



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Moose stay red-hot as playoffs draw near

QMJHL. Jonathan Drouin returns to lineup, pots OT winner



PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

Jonathan Drouin is back in good health and doing what he does best.

The Halifax Mooseheads' star sniper netted the game-winner in overtime as the Herd beat the Charlottetown Islanders 3-2 in Quebec Major Junior Hockey League action before 3,718 fans at the Eastlink Centre on Tuesday night.

Drouin, who missed the team's 4-0 road win over the Saint John Sea Dogs on Saturday night due to illness, scored 49 seconds into overtime as the red-hot Mooseheads extended their winning streak to 11 games.

"One (defenceman) lost his stick and he took advantage of it. He beat the goalie high-blocker," head coach Dominique Ducharme said of Drouin's winning goal. "It was an important play, it won us the game."

In what was a potential first-round playoff preview, the teams exchanged goals in the first and second periods, and after a scoreless third, which saw Halifax outshoot



Mooseheads goalie Zachary Fucale smothering the puck as Bradley Kennedy of the Islanders tries to poke it loose at the Eastlink Centre in Charlottetown Tuesday night. BRIAN MCINNIS/CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Charlottetown 17-3, Drouin sent the visitors home happy with his 26th goal of the season.

Drouin also had an assist to finish with two points.

Andrew Ryan and Timo Meier had the other Halifax

goals, while Nikolas Ehlers finished with two assists to give him 100 points on the season.

Zach Fucale stopped 19 shots for the win.

"It's more about the way we play," said Ducharme of

the team's current hot streak. "Yes, we've won the last 11, but we're going to be starting the playoffs in about a week. I think we're improving and playing better and better."

Spencer Cobbold and Troy Vance had the goals for Char-

Regular-season finales

Halifax closes out its regular season at home Friday to Saint John and Saturday against the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles. Puck drop both nights is 7 p.m.

The century mark

100

The number of points Nikolas Ehlers has in 61 games this season. Not far behind is Jonathan Drouin, who has racked up 98 points in just 44 games.

lottetown who, with the single point, move into a tie with the Bathurst Titan for 14th place in the 18-team league.

The top-16 teams make the post-season, and Charlottetown needs one more win in its final two games to clinch a playoff berth.

Halifax now has 93 points, just two behind the league-leading Baie-Comeau Drakkar. Both teams have two games remaining in the battle for the No. 1 playoff seed and home-ice advantage throughout the playoffs.

"We can only control what we can do," Ducharme said of where they finish in the standings. "We only have two games left and we want to take care of that."

Rainmen ready to take Island by Storm in conference final

After a slow start to the season, the Halifax Rainmen have stepped up their game when it's counted most.

The team is set to face off against the Island Storm in a National Basketball League of Canada best-of-seven conference final series beginning Wednesday.

Games 1 and 2 will be played at the Eastlink Centre in Charlottetown on Wednesday and Sunday with action returning to Halifax for Game 3 at the Metro Centre on March 20.

"We're expecting our guys to win and compete at a high level," said team owner Andre Levinston. "I think our guys are peaking at the right time and we're expecting to con-

Quoted

"If we continue to win I think we will see the difference at the games."

Rainmen owner Andre Levinston, regarding fan attendance.

tinue playing at the level we've been playing the last few weeks."

The first-place Storm (22-18) advanced to the conference final after beating the Moncton Miracles 3-1 in the best-of-five conference semifinals.

The last-place Rainmen (11-29) advanced after defeating the Saint John Mill Rats, also in four games, in a first-round upset.

In 10 head-to-head matchups during the regular season, the Storm trumped the Rainmen with seven wins.

After beginning the season 0-10, fan attendance has dropped significantly for Rainmen home games. There was an announced crowd of 1,700 for Sunday's series-clinching game over the Mill Rats, but the crowd looked more like 700.

Levinston hopes the fans return for the conference finals.

"Halifax is a tough market. They support winners," said Levinston. "But now that we're playing some good basketball it will lure our fans back because of the way we are playing and ultimately we're winning."

KAYLYNN PAYNTER/FOR METRO



The Island Storm's Cody Boone, right, tries to stop the Halifax Rainmen's Raven Barber in a game in October. JEFF HARPER/METRO

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Through rain, snow and sledge in Sochi



Paralympics roundup.

Canada's perfect sledge hockey record stays intact; Arendz battles for bronze in biathlon

Greg Westlake scored the game's only goal while Corbin Watson made seven saves for his second straight shutout Tuesday as Canada defeated the Czech Republic 1-0 in sledge hockey at the Sochi Paralympics.

Westlake broke the scoreless tie at 7:33 of the second period, ripping a shot upstairs from in tight for his second goal of the tournament.

Canada had a number of chances to extend the lead but was forced to hang on late as the Czechs made one final push in the dying seconds.

"They're a big team. They're physical," said Westlake. "They've got a lot of men on their team."

Canada has surrendered just one goal on 18 shots through three round-robin victories while outscoring its opponents 15-1.

"It was a fun game to play and it was a necessary game to play because we get better and we needed a team to push us going into the medal round,"

Firing blanks

"We had some scoring chances; there was just no finish."

Team Canada sledge hockey coach Mike Mondin explains his team's trouble getting goals on Tuesday



Mark Arendz of Canada races to a bronze-medal finish in men's biathlon at the 2014 Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia, on Tuesday. RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

said Westlake.

Canada clinched first place in its pool and will take on the United States in one of Thursday's semifinals.

The Americans, who won gold four years ago in Vancouver, dropped a hard-fought 2-1 decision to the host Russians earlier Tuesday to finish second in their group.

Russia will meet Norway in the other semifinal.

Elsewhere on Tuesday, biathlete Mark Arendz battled pouring rain and dense fog to win a bronze medal in the

men's 12.5-kilometre standing category.

He finished in 30 minutes 31 seconds. Russia's Azat Karachurin won gold in 29:30.0 while Norway's Nils-Erik Ulset captured silver.

"To get a medal is awesome and that was the goal," said Arendz.

Arendz's medal was Canada's seventh so far in the competition (one gold, two silver, four bronze).

Host Russia continues to lead with a whopping 34 medals, 23 ahead of second-place

Ukraine. Canada and the United States are tied in third.

Arendz, who shot 19-of-20, said the poor visibility made the race extra challenging.

In para-alpine skiing, Braydon Luscombe of Duncan, B.C., was the top-placing Canadian, finishing second in the standing division with a time of 52.17 seconds. Josh Dueck of Kimberley, B.C., placed fifth in the sitting category in 59.93 seconds.

Standing athlete Kirk Schornstein of Spruce Grove, Alta., was 17th and Mac Mar-

coux of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., and guide Robin Femy of Mont-Tremblant, Que., did not finish their run in the visually impaired category.

In the women's slalom, standing skier Calgary's Alexandra Starker was the top-placing Canadian in 1:06.59. Toronto's Erin Latimer was eighth.

In wheelchair curling, Canada improved to 5-1 and moved into a first-place tie with Russia with an 8-5 victory over China.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Terry Trafford

Body of missing OHL player found

Officials with the Saginaw Spirit say Michigan State Police have told them that the body of missing junior hockey player Terry Trafford has been found.

A man's body was found Tuesday afternoon in an SUV matching the description of one belonging to Trafford in the parking lot of a Walmart store in Saginaw Township.

Trafford reportedly last was seen about 9:30 a.m. on March 3 at the Dow Event Center, the home arena for the Spirit.

In a statement on the Ontario Hockey League team's website, the Spirit offered condolences to Trafford's family and his friends in Ontario and Michigan.

Saginaw Spirit president Craig Goslin had said Trafford was sent home prior to his disappearance "for a violation of rules," but said Trafford wasn't permanently cut from the team.

At one point in the search, police said they believed Trafford might have left the state to return to his hometown of Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Terry Trafford OHL PHOTOS

NHL. Pens get home-and-home sweep vs. Caps

Marc-Andre Fleury made 32 saves for his fifth shutout of the season, leading the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 2-0 victory over the Washington Capitals on Tuesday night.

Jussi Jokinen and Sidney Crosby scored for the Penguins, who swept the teams' home-and-series one night after beating the Capitals 3-2 in Washington. Pittsburgh has won three in a row and picked up at least a point in eight of its last 10 games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Penguins captain Sidney Crosby battles with the Capitals' Dmitry Orlov on Tuesday night in Pittsburgh. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Habs. Vanek excited to experience heated rivalry

It won't take long for Thomas Vanek to get his first taste of the heated Montreal Canadiens-Boston Bruins rivalry.

The 30-year-old acquired by Montreal at last week's NHL trade deadline will play his first home game at the Bell Centre against the Bruins on Wednesday night.

"Rivalries are for the fans," Vanek said Tuesday. "They're good for the league, but for us in here, and I'm sure it's the same as everywhere. It's just about winning the two points."



Thomas Vanek GETTY IMAGES

"But I'm sure the atmosphere will be great and I can't wait to experience it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Weeknights at 8 K8 counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day

TOP SIX @ 6

- 6 Bastille: Pompeii
- 5 Kid Ink: Show Me
- 4 Jason Derulo: Talk Dirty
- 3 Beyonce ft Jay Z: Drunk In Love
- 2 Pharrell Williams: Happy
- 1 Katy Perry ft Juicy J: Dark Horse

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Nissan's lovable Rogue for 2015



PHOTOS: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

2015 Nissan Rogue

- **Type.** Four-door, front- all-wheel-drive compact wagon
- **Engines (hp).** 2.5-litre DOHC I4 (170)
- **Transmissions.** Continuously variable (CVT)
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$25,100



Fuel economy

The improved CVT helps bump fuel economy to 7.9 l/100 km in the city and 6.0 on the highway (8.2/6.2 for AWD models), compared to 9.0/7.0 for previous Rogues (9.6/7.7 for AWD).

Engine

Visually, the Tennessee-built Rogue swaps out its Murano-like egg-carton grille for one that's a whole lot bolder. It's part of a new front end with added folds and creases for the hood and fenders, an enlarged lower air intake and fancy jewel-like headlight pods ringed with standard LED (Light Emitting Diode) running lights.

Review. Quality weather versatility, good value and NASA-inspired seats will win you over

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

It's cold out here. Like, -20 C, with blowing snow and darkening skies in the heart of Quebec's Laurentian mountains just north of Montreal. And here we are, sampling Nissan's 2014 Rogue compact wagon.

The second-generation Rogue follows a pattern established by the original 2008 model-year version. Although a Nissan success story, the Rogue is kept at bay by the league-leading Honda CR-V, Ford Escape, Toyota RAV4 and Chevrolet Equinox. For 2014, the Rogue has upped its game with more distinctive styling, more comfortable and practical seating arrangements and improved fuel economy. They constitute basic motherhood issues for this segment that absolutely factor into the purchasing-deci-

sion process.

At the opposite end, the rear window and side glass are squared-off and the taillights are enlarged and repositioned above the fender line for improved style and visibility.

What isn't visible is the Rogue's all-new platform that's developed with Nissan's cross-ownership partner Renault. The Rogue's dimensions actually vary little from the original architecture, with just a 1.5-centimetre stretch between the front and rear wheels and similarly small increases in width and body height.

Inside, Nissan increased the Rogue's load capacity by about 20 per cent, thanks to a new fold-flat passenger seat. Overall interior volume is increased by about 10 per cent.

Nissan now offers a third-row seating option for the Rogue, which makes it the only small ute in its class outside of the Mitsubishi Outlander with the capacity to transport up to seven passengers. Access is secured by sliding the split-folding second-row bench forward up to nine inches, but as with most three-row arrangements

it's best to position only smaller folks in the back row for short journeys and surrender any meaningful amount of stowage space while it's in use.

The remaining restyled cabin area is a place of comfort and joy, especially the restyled dash/control panel layout and the NASA-inspired "Zero Gravity" front seats (similar to the ones in the Nissan Altima sedan). They really do the trick on extended trips, especially with the optional progressive quick-heat system that warms the thighs and hips before extending warmth to other body areas. Returning is a 175-horsepower 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine. It's connected to a continuously variable transmission (CVT) that now performs more like a traditional automatic in operation and performance. A redesigned belt and pulley system plus a sport-mode switch for the driver sharpens transmission operation and throttle response.

Various traction and control aids make winter tripping tolerable. The \$2,000 all-wheel-drive option—a must-have for snow-bound buyers—redirects

engine torque from the front to the rear, or to individual wheels, as necessary. The AWD can also be locked in 50/50 mode (front/back) at speeds below 40 km-h.

Other safety and comfort systems can be brought into play on the Rogue, such as Active Ride Control that uses the brakes and engine torque to help smooth rough-road jounces, Active Trace Control that applies the inner or outer brakes as needed for more directionally precise cornering and Active Engine Braking that automatically reduces engine torque to help slow down the vehicle while you're using the brake pedal.

Options include a power-adjustable driver's panorama sunroof and "Around View Monitor" that shows a bird's-eye view of what's going on around you. Also optional is a leather interior and a navigation system, which of course inflates the Rogue's \$25,100 base price but allows buyers to take the luxury route whether heading to and from work, or heading outdoors for some cold-weather fun.

Compare



1 Ford Escape
Base price: \$25,600



2 Honda CR-V
Base price: \$27,600



3 Chevrolet Equinox
Base price: \$28,100

5 DRIVE

Retail ready fuel-cell cars just 18 months away

Clean process. Toyota's new concept creates electricity to power an electric motor using hydrogen and oxygen from the air



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Fuel-cell vehicles have always had an aura of science fiction about them, even though the science has been around since 1850 or so, when Sir William Grove first mused about generat-

ing electricity by exploiting how electrons hold water together.

Don't worry, this will not be a science lesson.

Science and I stopped being friends in grade nine, when I wondered how the mild acid in a glass beaker would fair in a Styrofoam cup, and the acid ate the Styrofoam cup, and the finish on the desk, and the finish on the floor, and

caused Mr. Ramsey to be very ill-tempered with me.

I guess the vague science fiction feel comes from the notion of something could be a "fuel" — in this case hydrogen — yet only produce water as an "emission." It doesn't sound natural, in our lives so used to, and tied to, the combustion-ing of petrochemicals.

The only thing I want

to say today about fuel cell vehicles is how close they are to actually being a fully retail product. Hyundai, Toyota, Honda, BMW and Mercedes-Benz have all officially announced intentions to have "retail ready" fuel-cell vehicles in showrooms within 18 to 24 months, depending on the market.

Two years goes by fast. It's already been three years since Charlie Sheen was last seen on Two and a Half Men.

The manufacturers are deep into testing the actual fuel-cell components we will see on these retail units. No more going back to the drawing board for another blue-sky concept. Toyota's fuel-cell test mule, for example, has been raking up miles in North America for over a year now, including a deep freeze stint in Yellowknife.

Off course, we still need a hydrogen re-fueling infrastructure, and that is not progressing along swimmingly. In fact, right now there is not one publicly accessible hydrogen station in all of Canada, and no immediate plans to

build any amount.

But say we overlook that alarming impediment and say fuel-cell vehicles will be a major force in the next few decades — because now it's time to look beyond fuel-cells. Yes, fuel cells are barely here, or more correctly not even here yet — but don't we need to know what will be the next big vehicle propulsion thing, after fuel cells?

Yes we need to know, but details are sketchy.

There doesn't seem to be one imminent and/or dominate science or technology currently poised to add to the list of major ways vehicles have been driven. So far on the timeline there is steam, electricity, the internal combustion engine using various petrochemicals, more electricity, and fuel-cells using hydrogen.

Maybe quantum physics will figure in somehow. There is some discussion about a quantum propulsion machine. I'd explain it, but I'd have to understand it first, and that's not going to happen.

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The ultra futuristic-looking hydrogen tank in place.



Under the skin of Toyota's latest concept vehicle, the FCV, are fuel-cell components destined for actual production vehicles. BOTH IMAGES PROVIDED

How Nissan can keep the Micra so cheap

Driving Force. The new model is less than \$10k and is Canada's least expensive car, but how does the Japanese automotive giant do it?

JIL
MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

Earlier this year at the Canadian International Auto-show in Toronto, Nissan announced that its newest model, the Micra, will go on sale starting at just \$9,998. But how can a company keep the price so low?

"It's all based on what costs we can deal with," says Christian Meunier, president of Nissan Canada. "We have to minimize the expense

structure to launch the car, and make sure that all the dollars we put into the margin are optimized for the dealers to make money. It's a very tight and structured way to go to market, and there is little room to fail."

The materials that go into each car make up a relatively small portion of the budget. Instead, most of the cost is in development and overhead.

It can cost as much as \$1 billion to design, test, and create tooling for a completely new engine or transmission, while each factory's utilities and labour costs are constant no matter what size vehicle is being built. As many vehicles do, the Micra shares its platform with several other models worldwide, ultimately amortizing these development costs across one million

cars each year.

"We can bring in a car with that price point and still be profitable," Meunier says. "There are a lot of economies of scale." However, while the Micra is already sold in several other countries, there are added costs in introducing it here. "It's tailored to Canada for the road conditions, suspension, steering, the structure of the seats, and the heater ducts to the rear," Meunier says. The car must also be tested for Canadian safety and fuel efficiency regulations.

Such costs are normally shared with the company's U.S. subsidiary when a vehicle will be sold in both countries, but since the Micra will only be offered here, Nissan Canada will bear all of the expenditure.

Even the wheels have a Canadian consideration: while global Micras have smaller ones, ours will have 15- or 16-inch wheels, since smaller-diameter winter tires are difficult to find.

When bringing in a new model, automakers also have to be very careful about how it fits in with existing vehicles. If it's too close to another in size, pricing, or features, it could steal sales from it, or conversely, customers could bypass it in favour of a model that offers a lot more for

Facts

• **Taking on the used market.** Value-priced cars compete not just against other new cars, but against used ones, where their warranties and financing can have an advantage.

• **Most popular with ...** Quebecers traditionally buy the majority of entry-level hatchbacks in Canada, especially with manual transmissions.

• **Comparison** Canadians buy more compact cars, while Americans buy more mid-size cars, but the Ford F-Series pickup is the highest-selling single model in both countries.

only a slightly higher price. In the Micra's case, Meunier had to ensure that it could be competitive alongside the Versa Note, currently Nissan's smallest hatchback.

"We want (the two combined) to sell a lot more than the Note was selling alone," Meunier says. "It's a very tight and structured way to go to market, and but it's a very comprehensive business case that we've put together."



The new Nissan Micra will be Canada's least expensive car. BOTH IMAGES PROVIDED



Nissan managed to keep the price as low as \$9,998.

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Parts department

WHEELBASE MEDIA

How to roll around the shop

For moving project vehicles around in your garage or workshop, you really need a system like the Uni-Dolly from R.D. Enterprises. The company's portable rolling jack stands can be easily adjusted for between 35 and 53 centimetres in height and from 76-152-centimetres in width. The large 15-centimetre-diameter wheels (with sealed bearings) allows just one person to reposition the vehicle. The Uni-Dolly's 4,300-kilogram capacity (for each) means that it can also be set up to securely move boats plus a variety of trailers and pickup-mounted campers. A set of two Uni-Dollies starts at \$400 US. See the complete product and accessory lines (plus ordering info) at uni-dolly.com.



Bring on the heat

If you work on machinery, you know how tough it is to remove seized or rusted nuts and bolts from various engine, brake and suspension components. In many cases an oxy-acetylene torch is needed to free up these parts, which risks damaging nearby components. Enter the Mini-Ductor II from Induction Innovations, Inc. It works by creating intense, but localized heat directly around the part in mere seconds, thanks to its 1,000 watts of power. In addition, the Mini-Ductor's built-in LED light lets you see exactly what you're doing. The basic kit retails for around \$450 US and can be purchased from authorized retailers or from online resellers such as amazon.com. For additional product and where-to-buy information, check out theinductor.com.



A model Mercedes

Spending \$2,000 for a brand-new car would seem like a heck of a deal, but what about the same money for a 1/12-scale 1935 Mercedes-Benz 500K Roadster? It still seems like a deal. This 43-centimetre-long replica, which weighs in at a hefty three kilograms, features a fully retractable roof so you can display it with the top up or down. All of its 1,959 components are highly detailed, as you might expect, including the supercharged eight-cylinder engine, coil-spring suspension, intricate wire wheels and leather-covered interior. Only 2,000 copies of this spectacular model will be available worldwide. Order from replicarz.com.



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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

The Sun in Pisces at this time of year can make you emotional and you will find it hard to hide your feelings today. Why would you want to? Honesty is essential in all situations.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

What comes to light in an unexpected manner today will most likely improve your bargaining position. It will also remind you that you that you have friends you can count on.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Fight for your rights today, no matter how overwhelming the odds may be. Actually the odds are not nearly stacked against you to the extent you believe. Rivals are as scared of you as you are of them.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

The more others say you can trust them today, the more cautious you should be. In any negotiations you must get promises in writing at every stage. If you don't, they will likely turn out to be worthless.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You know what to say and do to win friends and relatives to your way of thinking. Whether your way of thinking is correct is another matter entirely — but since when do Leos worry about things like that?

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

A positive outlook in the face of adversity is essential. Because Virgo is a sign that gets caught up in details, you have a tendency to think it's the end of the world when little things go wrong.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

A plan that has been in a state of limbo since the start of the year will begin to move forward again today. Don't try to do everything at once though. You'll catch up.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

If you do anything to excess between now and the full moon on the 16th you will regret it, so tone down your act and don't try so hard to impress friends or co-workers.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You have no doubts and no reason to believe you will not succeed at the tasks you have set yourself. Rivals may try to derail your plans over the next few days but they won't come close to succeeding.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Keep options open over the next 24 hours, especially in dealing with co-workers. Because their plans are likely to change you may have to change too. If you're flexible, you will be in the money.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Make an effort to stand above petty battled. It may look as if the world is going to hell in a handcart but that's only because you are taking too narrow a view of events.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

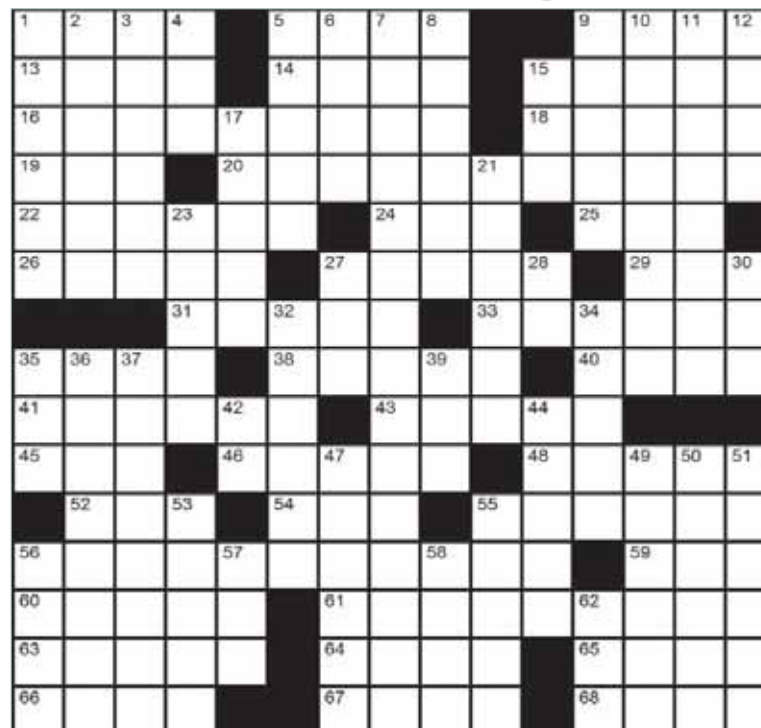
You need to raise your game. A week or so from now the Sun will move out of your birth sign, after which it may not be so easy to get things done. Don't aim just to be better, aim to be the best.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. __ Sanctuary
5. Vents
9. Purina rival
13. Benefit
14. Lovestruck, old-style
15. Offshoot
16. Self-esteem issue: 2 wds.
18. Uncle's wife [var. sp.]
19. 'Pay' suffix
20. Canadian actor Matt Frewer played the computerized title character on this late-'80s series: 2 wds.
22. Group of four
24. Cable channel
25. High sch. math
26. Wooded
27. Inexpensive
29. Dawn goddess
31. Musical pace
33. 007's Ms. Andress
35. La Boheme role
38. Sicily's volcano, belonging to it
40. Caesar's 2,550
41. Highlight
43. Finale
45. Dog breed
46. Humdinger
48. Q. "How do you say 'West' in French?" A. "It's either 'Ouest' __ __, I think."
52. Ms. Vardalos
54. Bruins legend Bobby
55. 24 hr. banker cost: 2 wds.
56. "Sherlock" star



- Benedict __, on Showcase
59. Mon.'s French equivalent
60. Mr. Welles
61. Nicknamed health plan always mentioned on American news
63. "So __ a song

- of love, Julia." - The Beatles
64. Movie beekeeper
65. "Now!"
66. Require
67. Fam. members
68. 'Special' suffixes

- Down**
1. John __, Prime

- Minister who is Christopher Plummer's great-grandfather
2. Beverage 'box'
3. Until now: 2 wds.
4. " __ questions?"
5. Equally irked: 2 wds.
6. Jumbo-sized movie presenter

7. The __ Stephen Harper
8. Sam __ (Famous officer of the North West Mounted Police)
9. Honda car
10. Flooring choice
11. Leprechaun's treasure, __ __
12. 'Pseud' suffix

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

15. Unhappy
17. "Drats, __ a mistake."
21. "Rebel Without __" (1955)
23. Fix, as shoelaces
27. Mil. rank
28. Media company dept.
30. Mr. Mineo
32. Shooting star
34. Faux compliments-giving
35. Blueprint
36. Medical job on Global drama "Remedy": acr. + wd.
37. Danielle __, Senior Reporter on CTV's "etalk"
39. Li'l quantity
42. Fredericton's prov.
44. Saxe-Coburg-__ (British monarchy's pre-Windsor name)
47. Shady tree retreat
49. __ (Some music notes)
50. Pointillist painter, Georges __
51. Principles
53. Form __ (Grow close)
55. Pinnacles
56. Nickel
57. Manchester, __
58. Weight unit in China
62. Show on Marg's TV resume

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	1	2	4	6	9	8	3	7
3	7	4	2	5	8	9	8	1
6	9	8	7	3	1	2	4	5
7	4	3	9	2	6	1	5	8
1	2	5	3	8	4	6	7	9
8	6	9	5	1	7	3	2	4
4	8	6	1	7	2	5	9	3
9	5	1	6	4	3	7	8	2
2	3	7	8	9	5	4	1	6

				1				
	2			5				
				2	8	6	1	4
	7	5		3			8	6
		1	9		6	7		
3	6			7			1	9
4	3	2	8	9				
				6			3	
			5					

Today



6°/-5°
Partly cloudy

Thursday



6°/-9°
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UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



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3
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2
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2
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